

**Introduced by Senator McClintock**

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Leonard)

**(Coauthors: Senators Ackerman, Battin, Brulte, Haynes, Johannessen, Johnson, Knight, Margett, Monteith, Morrow, Oller, and Poochigian)**

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May 10, 2001

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 13—Relative to the Yucca Mountain radioactive materials repository.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 13, as introduced, McClintock. Yucca Mountain radioactive materials repository: nuclear facilities.

This measure would urge the United States Secretary of Energy to expedite the review of the scientific data regarding Yucca Mountain's suitability as a permanent federal repository, and would memorialize the President of the United States to move forward with the licensing of Yucca Mountain as a permanent repository. The measure would also declare the intent of the Legislature that the California Energy Commission make an expedited finding that the State of California is ready to accept nuclear facilities, upon successful completion of the federal government's actions.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, California's acute shortage of electricity
- 2 generating capacity presents an immediate threat to the health and
- 3 safety of its citizens and the prosperity of its economy; and

1 WHEREAS, In order to secure a safe and prosperous future for  
2 its citizens, California must dramatically expand its capacity to  
3 generate clean, cheap, and abundant electricity; and

4 WHEREAS, California needs a broad portfolio of energy  
5 supply options to hedge against fuel price fluctuations, fuel  
6 shortages, and import disruptions; and

7 WHEREAS, California's nuclear powerplants have proven to  
8 be safe, dependable, economic, and environmentally benign  
9 sources of electricity to California citizens, producing 16 percent  
10 of the electricity generated in California today; and

11 WHEREAS, Nuclear power requires minimal land intrusion,  
12 and prevents the release of millions of tons of air pollutants and  
13 greenhouse gases, thus being critical for compliance with air  
14 quality laws and regulations; and

15 WHEREAS, New advanced standardized nuclear powerplant  
16 designs with increased safety and reliability features have been  
17 recently certified by the gNuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)  
18 and are ready to meet the strict siting requirements set forth by the  
19 NRC in its regulations; and

20 WHEREAS, California law precludes approval of new nuclear  
21 powerplants until an appropriate site for a high level nuclear waste  
22 repository has been approved by the federal government; and

23 WHEREAS, Over seven billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000) have  
24 been spent on studies of Yucca Mountain, Nevada that show that  
25 the proposed site is an ideal repository to safely contain radioactive  
26 materials, with a capacity sufficient to meet all foreseeable storage  
27 needs; and

28 WHEREAS, Studies of Yucca Mountain have yielded the  
29 scientific information necessary for a decision by the United States  
30 Secretary of Energy that there are no technical or scientific issues  
31 that will prevent Yucca Mountain from serving as a permanent  
32 repository, clearly supporting a recommendation by the Secretary  
33 to the President of the United States to proceed on licensing a  
34 permanent repository at Yucca Mountain; and

35 WHEREAS, Since 1983, consumers of electricity from  
36 California's existing nuclear plants have committed more than  
37 eight hundred seventeen million dollars (\$817,000,000) into the  
38 federal Nuclear Waste Fund to finance site assessment and nuclear  
39 waste management; now, therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*  
2 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California hereby  
3 determines that nuclear energy is a necessary source of electricity  
4 generation, with no detrimental impact on its citizens and  
5 environment; and be it further

6 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California urges  
7 the United States Secretary of Energy to expedite the review of the  
8 scientific data regarding Yucca Mountain's suitability as a  
9 permanent federal repository and make his recommendation to the  
10 President this year; and be it further

11 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
12 memorializes the President of the United States to move forward  
13 with the licensing of Yucca Mountain as an ideal site for a  
14 permanent repository; and be it further

15 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California hereby  
16 declares its intent that, upon successful completion of the federal  
17 government's actions finding that Yucca Mountain is an  
18 acceptable site for the licensing of a permanent high level waste  
19 repository, the California Energy Commission should make an  
20 expedited finding, in accordance with Section 25524.2 of the  
21 Public Resources Code, that the State of California is hereby ready  
22 to accept nuclear facilities certified by the Nuclear Regulatory  
23 Commission on sites approved by the commission, for the purpose  
24 of providing clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable electricity  
25 for the families of California, and be it further

26 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
27 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
28 States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
29 to each Senator and Representative from California in the  
30 Congress of the United States, and to the United States Secretary  
31 of Energy.

